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RUEHRC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEANAT/NASA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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TAGS: [ENRG](#) [SENV](#) [TRGY](#) [EPET](#) [EAID](#) [SOCI](#) [KSCA](#)  
KGHG, KPAO, OPDC, UY  
SUBJECT: URUGUAY'S RESPONSE TO FORMAL INVITATION FROM SECRETARY RICE  
TO WIREC (MARCH 4-6, 2008)

REF: SECSTATE 563

¶1. (U) Ambassador Baxter delivered reftel invitation to Minister of Industry, Energy and Mining Jorge Lepra and Undersecretary for Industry, Energy and Mining Martin Ponce de Leon via e-mail, with hard copy following via embassy courier, on Tuesday, 8 January.

¶2. (U) On 9 January, embassy received the following letter addressed to Secretary Rice in response from Minister Lepra:

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BEGIN TEXT OF LETTER:  
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Ms. Secretary of State  
Dr. Condoleezza Rice  
Embassy of the United States of America

Dear Dr. Condoleezza Rice,

Thank you for your kind invitation to participate in the Washington International Renewable Energy Conference (WIREC 2008) that will take place at Washington Convention Center on March 4-6, 2008.

On behalf of our government, our Ministry will send an official delegation to join such an important event.

As you may know, the first Regional Observatory for Renewable Energy was established last month in Montevideo, Uruguay by United Nations (ONU). It is of vital significance for us, for both the present and the future, our commitment to the best development of renewable energy.

We look forward to receiving further information regarding the event. Please do not hesitate to contact us in order to make the necessary arrangements.

Kind regards,  
Jorge Lepra  
Minister of Industry, Energy and Mining

CC: Amb. Frank Baxter, Dr. Gonzalo Fernandez, Eng. Martin Ponce de Leon

JL/ca

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END TEXT OF LETTER  
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13. (U) Ambassador Baxter was subsequently informed that Minister Lepra fell and injured himself; it is not yet clear whether the Minister's injury will prevent him from personally attending WIREC. Embassy will advise Department septel as soon as the names of the members of the official Uruguayan delegation to WIREC are known.

BAXTER